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Bureau of Cancer Research.

The matter of special importance because of the immersions in oil refuse to which of late years bathers at summer resorts have been subjected.

On both the Atlantic and the Pacific coast water fowl life is seriously affected by this oil refuse.

The California Game Commission reports that birds are being destroyed in thousands by oil dumped within the three mile limit.

As long ago as last March the Providence Journal reported that thousands of wild ducks had been killed by oil on Rhode Island waters.

Oyster dredgers brought great numbers of dead ducks to the surface.

Still other ducks were found floating on the water so disabled by gluey oil that they were unable to lift their wings to fly.

There was nothing for them to do but to float around until they starved to death.

What has happened on the New England and Pacific coasts has of course happened in greater or less degree along our entire sea front.

The refuse oil evil concerns Great Britain, France and all other maritime countries as much as it does us.

If the three mile limit means the creation of vast oil shore dumps for this refuse destructive to birds and fishes, and if these dumps are beyond the reach of domestic laws, then doubtless there will be international regulations to meet the evil.

It is by no means a problem difficult of solution. Installation of tested equipment for oil segregation and storage on board ship is neither difficult nor expensive, and this would make it unnecessary for ships to discharge waste oil into the sea.

Better Late Than Never.

Mayor HYLAN is to be commended for ordering an inquiry into the conduct of the police who raided the Town Hall meeting of November 13.

Why the Mayor did not start a genuine investigation of this outrage a month ago, instead of leaving it to the clique at Police Headquarters, is a puzzle.

The "investigation" at Headquarters was a star chamber farce, as the Mayor might have suspected it would be.

Still it is not too late for Mr. HYLAN to seek out the men guilty of the violation of the citizens' right to free speech.

He has entrusted the task to his Commissioner of Accounts, Mr. HIRSCHFELD. What with his inspection of American history for purposes of schoolbook revision and his routine work Mr. HIRSCHFELD is a busy man.

But if he is determined to get at the truth about the muzzling of the Town Hall meeting he should be able to produce immediate results.

Meanwhile there is no reason why the District Attorney's office should not proceed on its own account with a view to discovering whether the incident of November 13, when a little group of police officials prevented public addresses at a gathering of orderly New Yorkers, should be presented to the Grand Jury.

The Meyer Committee's Charter Revision Proposals.

The Meyer investigating committee is sound in principle when it recommends for the new Charter of New York city a separation of the appropriating power from the spending power.

The executive branch of the State government does not decree what it will spend, raise the money as best it can and then spend it.

The Executive of the United States Government does not. Each of these executive branches, under the careful estimates and close scrutiny of a budget system, asks the separate and distinct legislative appropriating branch for the money it needs, and if it gets it spends it on the specific objects for which it is appropriated.

The system which obtains with national and State governments should obtain with our municipal government in so far as it is safe and practicable.

If there is not likely to be in our municipal government under existing law a legislative branch competent to reach important financial decisions and to exercise wisely the appropriating power, there can be, to perform these functions, a responsible elective body such as the nine members of the board of finance proposed by the committee.

Again the Meyer committee is sound when it urges simplification of the whole financial machinery of the local government through the abolition of the present Sinking Fund Commission, along with the Board of Estimate, to be replaced by the single board of finance. And it is politically as well as financially sound when it urges the discontinuance of mandatory spendings for purely local purposes, forced by the Albany Legislature upon the municipal government regardless of its desire to spend and perhaps even its capacity to pay.

But while the foregoing Charter revision suggestions follow sound principles and successful practices, other proposals of censorship, even regulatory and removal powers, over the municipal executive are a very different matter.

The Meyer committee, in fact, proposes a small legislative body with virtually unlimited powers over the authority and indeed the very existence of the executive who might in the circumstances become merely the servile agent of the legislative nine.

All this in spite of the fact that the men who in the past have studied the longest and examined the most deeply into the practical needs of a business like local government seldom ever failed to reach the conclusion that full responsibility for his conduct of municipal business should

be definitely fixed upon the executive, after there were given to him the authority to administer, the money to spend and the work to do.

In respect of this latter plan the Meyer committee gets not closer to but further away from the now generally accepted idea among big business builders and government organizers of a municipal business manager, charged with responsibility and armed with authority to do the things he is commissioned to do.

It is never going to be an easy matter to get a business giant to take the job of managing the business affairs of a municipality with all its petty politics, local jealousies and factional obstructions.

If the job is to have so many strings tied to it that a man of capacity, energy and power could do nothing worth while with it, however hard he tried, no man fit to handle it as a Standard Oil Company or a United States Steel Corporation requires a job to be handled would touch it with a ten foot pole.

The interruption of pitchblende mining in Bohemia caused by the war turned attention to the known but unsurveyed sources of uranium ore in Colorado.

The search by skillful prospectors disclosed the fact that the supply of carnotite exceeds the first estimates as to quantity.

The reduction of the ore and the chemical treatment by which the radium is obtained are complex as well as costly processes. One company engaged in the production of radium has found it more economical to transport the ore to the nearest railway station and thence to the reduction works at Orange, New Jersey, than to attempt reduction and treatment at the source of production.

Hitherto the yearly production of radium has not been much in excess of three-quarters of an ounce. The output may be and probably will be increased, but a lowering of the price is not likely unless a more inexpensive process of reduction is discovered.

The entire quantity of radium in the world fit for surgical use does not exceed five or six ounces.

At Peace With the World.

By the signing of the treaty of peace between the United States and Hungary this country becomes at peace with the world.

The Hungarian treaty, which is the third concluded since July, was signed yesterday at Budapest by the Hungarian Government as represented by Foreign Minister BANFI and the American Charge d'Affaires at Budapest, HUGH GRANT SMITH.

The Hungarian National Assembly on August 13 unanimously approved the peace resolution adopted by the United States Congress on July 2 declaring that a state of war between the United States on one side and Germany and Austria-Hungary on the other side was at an end.

At the same time the Hungarian Assembly authorized the Government to negotiate a separate peace treaty.

The request for this treaty was formally laid before our Government and negotiations for such a treaty were begun on August 24.

The compact which has just been signed is the result. The main points of this document were already covered by the treaties of Versailles, St. Germain and the Trianon.

The treaty, besides confirming previous treaty provisions, secures defined rights to the people of the two nations regarding their personal and business relations which in nowise conflict with the terms of the other treaties.

The last previous peace treaty to which the United States was a party was that with Austria, which was approved by the Senate October 18 and ratified by President HARDING October 21, proclaimed at Vienna November 8 and nine days later in the United States. It is expected that the President will issue his final proclamation of peace in a few days.

Because it was announced that a bomb was to be exploded in the financial district yesterday scores of hundreds of victims of curiosity with no business to call them there loitered in Broad street and in Wall street, to be on hand when the carnage occurred, and had any of them been injured by a mania he would undoubtedly have asked for sympathy as an innocent bystander.

The word "undernourished" is popularly taken to mean starved because of poverty. Actually it connotes no such thing. A poor man may be well nourished, while a well to do man may suffer from malnutrition.

The exact significance of the word is well illustrated by the fact that a number of students at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, not financially in want, have been found to be undernourished.

Milk and cocoa are to be furnished to them free of charge to build up bodies which have become enervated by unwise diets or non-assimilation of food, not because shoddy money has not been spent on them.

A warned companion explodes no bombs.

The Massachusetts courts have extended until January 15 the time in which SACCO and VANZETTI, convicted murderers, may petition for new trials.

These are the convicted men who are represented abroad as "political prisoners," railroaded to death by a capitalist State. If the truth about them could be circulated, the revolutionists who have been nearly correct to say, from undiscovered causes; and radium, itself an unstable atom, is one of the products of dissociation of uranium.

Before the world war the supply of radium was obtained from pitchblende, a uranium ore fairly abundant in Bohemia.

The war rendered this unavailable, temporarily, at least; it likewise transferred the radium industry to the United States.

At the present time more than 1,000 workers are engaged in the pursuit of the rare substance, of which the entire output for a year of labor could be held in a teaspoon.

Carnotite is obtained chiefly in Colorado and Utah. One company opened and operated a claim which, it was thought, would yield only a few tons of the ore; but from that same mine nearly 20,000 tons of ore

has been taken, and the yield at present is in excess of 700 tons a month. More than fifty new claims were located during the past year, several of which have become producing mines.

In addition to the supply from Colorado and Utah a considerable quantity of uranium ore, the exuite of the mineralogist, has been brought from Brazil. The extent of the Brazilian supply is not known.

A ton of the radium bearing rock rarely yields more than 4 or 5 per cent. of uranium mineral, and the radium obtained therefrom does not ordinarily exceed three or four milligrams, that is, about the weight of as many brass pinheads.

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Overdoing the Holiday.

Whatever the inherent merits of the proposal to honor BENJAMIN FRANKLIN by adding another holiday to our already overloaded list of excuses for stopping work, this is as

as a time to put forward such a suggestion as could be imagined. With ten or a dozen weekdays in each year on which work comes to a dead halt in celebration of some anniversary or other, the country even now is losing millions of labor days every hour of which is of incalculable value in the formidable struggle to get back into that normal production which must be attained if we are to keep up with the procession.

What would BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, that great evangelist of the Gospel of Toil and Thrift, say about the proposal to loaf for a day to show respect for him? What would Poor Richard's opinion on the propositions that eight hours is the limit for a day's work and five and a half days constitute a work week?

If, now, the suggestion were that January 17, the sage's birthday, be commemorated by every American citizen doing a full day's work, an eighteen hour day's work of the kind FRANKLIN did, in one day, that would be honoring BEN FRANKLIN in a way which beyond all doubt would have his hearty approval.

America is not suffering alone from the holiday mania. In France it has become something of an epidemic.

The French go on one better in creating loofing days. They have what they call "the bridge." If yesterday was a holiday and to-morrow is to be one, then to-day, the bridge between the two days of idleness, is a holiday.

This discloses a masterpiece of logical reasoning. How in the world do our holiday makers overlook it?

But even in France there is a growing revolt against the perpetual seeking of excuses for knocking off work. An indication of this was given in the French Parliament when it decreed that Armistice Day should be celebrated on the following Sunday, thus merging the civil and the religious holiday into one. Commenting editorially on this and referring to the fact that the holiday mania is extending even to the schools, the *Revue des Deux Mondes* says:

"It is time to put an end to these dangerous notions. To exile France from the taste for work is not only to go against the traditions of a laborious people but it is to misconceive the harsh conditions of existence which are beginning for us, and which, with even more certainty, await our children. In the world which we are entering the only salvation for one and all is in work and by work. It is the law. Let us accept it resolutely instead of trying to dodge it by trickery. It is servitude, if you wish to call it so. But servitude itself, such a servitude, has its grandeur."

This is sound doctrine, every word of it, and it is as applicable to us in America as it is to the people of France. All proposals for new holidays had best be laid on the table.

Our Supply of Radium.

There have been disquieting rumors of a shortage in the supply of the ore from which radium is obtained, and therefore concerning the supply of radium itself.

The rumors are groundless. There is no shortage of carnotite, the source of radium, and unless an unexpected demand for a large amount of radium should occur the supply will be sufficient to meet all demands.

Carnotite is a mineral containing uranium, a metal much in character like chromium and tungsten. The uranium atom is not stable from a chemical standpoint; it gradually breaks into other elements from natural causes, or, perhaps it would be more nearly correct to say, from undiscovered causes; and radium, itself an unstable atom, is one of the products of dissociation of uranium.

Before the world war the supply of radium was obtained from pitchblende, a uranium ore fairly abundant in Bohemia.

The war rendered this unavailable, temporarily, at least; it likewise transferred the radium industry to the United States.

At the present time more than 1,000 workers are engaged in the pursuit of the rare substance, of which the entire output for a year of labor could be held in a teaspoon.

Carnotite is obtained chiefly in Colorado and Utah. One company opened and operated a claim which, it was thought, would yield only a few tons of the ore; but from that same mine nearly 20,000 tons of ore

An Advertisement of 1777.

Sixty Years of Search for the Connecticut Light Horse Uniform.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: When writing my family genealogy I searched every history and every other source available to find what uniform the regiment or troop of my grandfather wore during the Revolution. This search was rewarded by reading the following in the Connecticut Gazette and Universal Intelligencer, dated New London, October 24, 1777, of which we have a copy in the New York Historical Society Library:

DISRESPECTED out of my company, Major Hyde's Regiment of Light Horse, from State of Connecticut, now in Continental Army, in Northern Army, one Benjamin Gary belonging to Lebanon in said State, is a well built fellow about 5 ft. 10 in. high, dark complexion, brown hair, about 30 years of age, had on a light brown coat with buff facings, trimmed with white waist, a yellow tinsel lace round the crown of his hat, wears a pair of gaiters of buff color, and a buff waistcoat. He is a native of Lebanon, and carried off his saddle bags on his back with a pair of pistols in them. Whoever will return him the said deserter to his proper owner, he shall have the reward paid by me.

JAMES GREEN, Captain.

In "Connecticut in the Revolution," at page 707, Index, we have, "Gary, Benjamin, 56," and on page 56 in the roll of Israel Putnam's regiment and the Sixth Company from Lebanon, "Benjamin Gary, enlisted June 1, discharged June 12, 1777."

In the same volume Captain James Green is mentioned on page 143 as with Washington's army at White Plains in 1776, and on page 513 as being in the battle of Stillwater with Gates's army, but there is no mention of Gary among the privates in the troop and hardly any mention of the other men in the ranks.

The Second Regiment of Connecticut Light Horse had no field officer in the first service until December, 1776, when Elijah Hyde, a Captain, was promoted Major; up to that time James Green was senior Captain of the regiment.

I do not know that the uniform of the East Haddam troop—Captain Green's—was the same as that of the other troops of Light Horse, but suppose it was, both in the Second Regiment and in the other three regiments. This advertisement for the deserter is the only mention of any uniform of this period in the records of the State.

The records of the State show that the cavalry was more select and had a higher rank than the foot soldiers in that State.

R. H. GREENE, NEW YORK, December 19.

Cures for Snoring.

In the East Sleep on Your Back; In the West Do Not Do So.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: A person afflicted with snoring should make sure that his nasal air passages are free. When he retires he should lie on his back, with extra pillows to push his head forward and force his chin against his chest. That will close his mouth and force him to breathe through his nostrils. A little practice will soon make it a habit, and he will learn to sleep with his mouth closed without being on his back with his head pushed forward with pillows, and he will be cured of snoring. I have tried it on myself.

CHARLES LEBOT, NEWARK, N. J., December 19.

The Best Western Remedy.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: The following is the best receipt for snoring known west of the Mississippi River, and up or down, either north or south: Put something against the spinal column, say about the waist line, on going to bed. A spool of thread with a string drawn through the middle of it and tied in front is a practical apparatus. Anything else like it will do, just so it will increase the force of the muscles lying on his back to make him get over on one side again. For no one snores when lying on either side of the body.

This is submitted by a Westerner of long standing and sleeping who has frequently had to cast his lot where a doubling up process of repose was necessary. It is sure to work.

WILLIAM JUDSON, DENVER, Col., December 19.

Every Day a Christmas.

The Pleasure of Giving Could Be Spread All Over the Year.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: I desire to make a suggestion that will relieve shop girls, prevent the annual congestion of the mails and do good in a hundred other ways.

Why do we reserve our presentation of gifts for Christmas? Why do we knead and soften our hearts only at one season of the year instead of making every day in the year a gift day?

The truly kind, generous and charitable man who gives to the poor always has occasions for making gifts. Christmas giving is only, for the most part, a matter of custom and barter. There are a thousand ways of giving money and gifts without propping the recipient or giving him any offense.

There are three blessings attached to giving—one for the giver, one for the recipient, and, or rather many, for all those who benefit through the gratitude of him who receives an unlooked for kindness. Whether we have much or little, let us give of what we have, and let us need give constantly. At least let us need to give away the poor man who has been bred at our door, the widow or orphan who needs our help.

The pleasure of giving is one of those pure joys whose dwelling place is not of earth. No one who has ever felt this pure joy would exchange it for the barren pleasure of receiving. W. P. SPEKANE, WASH., December 12.

The House Jack Duffy Built.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: Your correspondent is mistaken about the old wife who built the shack where old Jack Duffy lived. It was built by a little boy I always remember reading the wire sign "This is the house that Jack